

Hillsboro Sustainability Task Force Meeting Summary

June 19, 2017

Attendees: Heather Robinson (Chair), David McIlInay, Caitlin Horsley, Laura Schaefer, Carol Brown, Mayor Steve Callaway, Mac Martin, Willy Paul, Heidi Burkart, Kristel Fesler (for Tacy Steele), Anthony Roy (guest), Mary Moerlins, Shanna Brownstein (alternate), Jeff Pazdalski, Debbie Garman (guest), Dacia Bakkum (staff), Peter Brandom (staff), Jason Robertson (staff).

Absent: Tova Broadbent, Bob Grover, Carly Riter, Evan Aldrete

Welcome

Heather welcomed the group and asked for a round of introductions and one example of sustainable practices in life or workplace.

Feature Topic: Utilities

Mary Moerlins with Northwest Natural Gas and Rebecca Carey-Smith with Portland General Electric presented information about their company low carbon/sustainability efforts and programs.

- Northwest Natural
 - Heats 74% of residential square footage in the areas they serve
 - Provides 90% of peak day energy need for residential and water heat customers
 - Goal of 30% carbon saving by 2035 by reducing carbon intensity, reducing and offsetting consumption and replacing more carbon intensive fuels
 - Target reduction areas include natural gas, customer use, heavy-duty transportation
 - Exploring potential for expanding energy storage including conversion of energy to gas (hydrogen)
- Portland General Electric
 - 870,000 customers
 - Serves 51 cities and 6 counties
 - 4,000 square mile service territory
 - 2015 Power Mix includes 26% purchased power, 25% natural gas, 22% coal, 16% hydro and 11% wind & solar
 - #1 in the nation for their renewable power program, keeping 1.8M pounds of CO2 out of the air
 - 27% of PGE generated energy was from carbon free sources in 2015
 - 8,450 customers generating solar power for the grid
 - Long term priorities: 65% energy from carbon free sources by 2025; 50% energy from renewable sources by 2040

Partner Survey Results

Jason provided a summary of annual partner survey results. Of the 58 proposed projects – 16 are implemented, 24 are underway, 7 are pending and 11 have not been started yet. He said a full list of highlights, along with data indicator updates, will be published as part of the Annual Report this fall.

Highlights from this year's survey include:

- Hillsboro "Library of Things" loans cardholders Kill-A-Watts, infrared thermometers, radon detectors, and thermal leak detectors
- Chamber + Washington Co. expanded recycling at 2017 Latino Cultural Festival
- Chamber promoting PGE energy savings workshops with members
- WTA bike share pilot at Hillsboro employers' sites (75 employers in pilot)
- Employees to use bikes to connect to MAX / conduct workday errands
- Hillsboro Community Garden Program expanding + resource for other cities/organizations re site planning, development and policy implementation
- Recycle at Work award program rebranded to *Green Business Leaders*
- 4 Green Business Leader businesses in Hillsboro
- 232 businesses have utilized Recycle at Work technical assistance
- Washington Co. updated wood burning policies and procedures
- Promoting wood stove exchange program through Recycling Update newsletter
- Genentech introduced reusable plastic tumblers for water and soda in cafeteria
- Washington County Solid Waste & Recycling partners now receive durable recycling bins instead of cardboard recycling boxes (30% post-consumer recycled plastic)
- KLA School acquired 2,000 pounds of large plywood spools from Exceed Enterprises + made spools into stools for preschool, saving 1,000 lbs. greenhouse gas emissions (<http://www.exceedpdx.com/exceeds-wooden-spools-put-good-use/>)
- Promoting building materials donation via Garbage and Recycling app
- Key Partners: WashCo Solid Waste and Recycling + ResourceFull Use Workshop
- County assisted 20 multifamily communities in Hillsboro (2,300 households)
- Activities: setting up recycling, conducting door to door education to residents, giving presentations or distributing stickers, signs and durable, reusable recycling bags

The following implementation challenges were identified by Partners:

- Funding for species monitoring
- Golf course conversion (high impact) to Salmon-Safe practices
- Capacity for new award program (vs. updates to existing County version)
- Resources and capacity to implement effective food waste recovery program
- Demolition permits are fast and cheap, making "deconstruction" a tough sell
- Lack of funding for installation of green infrastructure

Revolving Grant Concept

Peter gave a brief overview of the City's internal Sustainability Revolving Fund (SRF). The fund was seeded with \$51,000 in 2011. A portion of the savings from the funded projects are put back in to the fund. The total current balance of the SRF is \$92,000. Over \$70,000 of the funds have been allocated and the total project costs to date are \$175,000.

Projects funded include:

- GPS tracking for Parks fuel efficiency
- Lighting upgrades
- Transition to propane mowers
- Shute Library mechanical energy upgrades
- SHARC pool lighting retrofit
- Streetlight LED conversion
- Library bike fix-it tool stations
- [New] GPS tracking for Utility Billing
- [New] Ground probe pilot test for Parks irrigation water efficiency

The Task Force is considering expanding the SRF program to include community projects. Peter asked the group to provide feedback on potential guidelines, level of funding, who should be eligible, etc. Feedback is requested via email within the next month.

Partner Project Profile: Home Energy Score Program

Anthony Roy with Earth Advantage explained Portland's new Home Energy Score Program. Home energy scores help homebuyers, sellers and owners access information on a home's energy use. Home energy scores show sellers cost-effective improvements they can make before selling their home, helps the seller showcase energy improvements that were made and provides potential home buyers information about a home's energy features.

Home energy score reports are based on assets of the home not homeowner behavior, number of occupants or energy use. Assets include home construction type, insulation levels, heating, cooling & hot water systems. The types homes that can receive energy scores are single family homes, side-by-side townhomes, and duplexes.

The City of Portland requires all homes to have an energy score before they can be listed for sale. To obtain an energy score, a qualified assessor will need to inspect the home. Energy Score assessors must complete additional training to become qualified. Current market costs to receive an energy score are between \$150-\$250.

Member Updates

Members provided several updates during introductions and as part of the survey results summary.

Public Comment

Debbie Garman with 350.org Washington County chapter introduced herself and talked about a climate essay competition for high school and college students. The essays will include both written and video components and will launch this fall. Judging will take place in January and fund will be awarded in February or March. Support from Task Force members was requested via email.

Upcoming Activities

- HSTF Meeting: October 23, 3:00 – 5:00, Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve
 - Oak Island Marsh Restoration Presentation and Tour
 - Spotlight Presentation: Pacific Landscape
- HSTF Annual Report Council Presentation: November 7, 2017